



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

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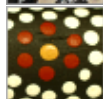
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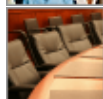
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Inform NT (cat. no 1308.7) is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Northern Territory Office of the ABS. It provides information about statistical developments, training activities and statistical information relating to the Northern Territory (NT). Inform NT is designed to raise awareness of ABS products and services and to assist researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in the NT.

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

#### **ISSUE (QUARTER)**

June 2009

September 2009

December 2009

March 2010

#### **Release Date**

30 June 2009

30 September 2009

21 December 2009

31 March 2010

## **INQUIRIES**

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Megan Brown on Darwin (08) 8943 2100.

## **NT Regional Director - Marilyn Henden**



**NT REGIONAL DIRECTOR - MERILYN HENDEN**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to the first issue of Inform NT, the ABS NT Office newsletter. Produced by our Client and Statistical Services Branch, this quarterly newsletter will provide regular updates on statistical developments, training activities and information relating to the Northern Territory. Inform NT is designed to raise awareness of ABS products and services and to assist researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in the Northern Territory. I trust you will find the newsletter useful and informative. Any feedback on the newsletter or suggestions for future inclusions is welcome. Please refer to the Contacts section of this newsletter for information on how to do this.

The ABS NT Office exists to provide strong statistical leadership to the Northern Territory Government and the NT community. The office aims to increase the understanding and use of statistics and, where possible, influence government agencies to make more considered 'evidence-based' decisions when developing policy and measuring any subsequent impact. We work with internal and external stakeholders to facilitate the delivery of a high quality, comprehensive and coherent picture of Northern Australia and the Northern Territory economy, society and environment.

#### **NT ABS Office is moving**

I am pleased to announce that the ABS NT Office is moving to the Civitas Building at 22 Harry Chan Avenue, Darwin. The Civitas Building is a new development located within the Darwin CBD, comprising a combination of office, retail and residential space. The ABS will occupy levels two and three of the new building, with reception located on the third floor. There should be minimal disruption for ABS clients and staff and contact numbers will remain the same.

The NT Office looks forward to the official office opening which is expected to be in June this year.

Marilyn Henden

NT Regional Director

# Feature Article



## FEATURE ARTICLE

### TOWARDS 2011: GEARING UP FOR CENSUS

For most people in the Northern Territory (NT), the 2011 Census of Population and Housing seems light years away. But for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the journey toward the next Census is one that has already begun.

The five-yearly population count is a mammoth logistical operation, particularly in a region as diverse as the NT. As well as accurately counting the urban population, the ABS is continuously striving to improve the population counts of remote and very remote areas, Indigenous communities, tourists, grey nomads and those in the community without a roof over their head on Census night.

Census results are used by all sectors of the community, from all levels of government to community groups, researchers, businesses and individuals. Census results are used to: produce population estimates; allocate seats in the House of Representatives; assist determining electoral boundaries; support planning for future infrastructure needs; and aid in determining the distribution of federal government funds to the states and territories. Census counts underpin our democracy and rely on all of us completing our forms to ensure their accuracy.

#### Towards 2011

Whilst the content of the 2011 Census form will be the same as 2006, the ABS is dedicated to finding innovative means of continually improving the quality of data collected. The 2006 Census achieved good outcomes in many regions; but the results also showed that the ABS needs to continue to focus on improving coverage to ensure the best possible Census count.

To this end, the ABS will conduct a Census test in several NT Indigenous communities in August 2009 which will trial a system of remote teams. This remote teams testing follows a general Census test of between 5,000 and 6,000 dwellings in south-east Queensland urban areas in late March that will also trial new field procedures and systems, as well as an improved e-Census strategy to help increase the take-up rate for electronic enumeration.

The test phase will also provide the ABS with an opportunity to establish relationships that can be fostered in the lead-up to the 2011 Census. The aims of the Census could never be achieved without the support of the community, and in 2006 the involvement of NT Government, non-government organisations such as the Salvation Army and Mission Australia, and our local 'boots on the ground' field staff were invaluable in ensuring the Census' success. For 2011, the ABS aims to establish a network of organisations that are interested in the Census and will be involved in initiatives to make sure their community counts.

Everything learned during the test will be utilised to ensure that the official counts are of the highest possible quality. The ABS aims to do this through initiatives that increase support for the Census at the community level, utilise local knowledge and intelligence, improve awareness of recruitment of Census field staff, and raise awareness and promote the benefits of the 2011 Census.

#### Census Engagement Officers

The development of new Census strategies and the development of Census tests will be the

responsibility of the new Census Engagement Officers, based in each ABS Regional Office. These managers will work with government, businesses, community groups and Indigenous communities to ensure every voice is heard and every person counted in 2011.

*All of us benefit from a successful Census. If you feel your organisation or department has something to contribute, please contact the Census Engagement Officer the ABS NT Office on (08) 8943 2100.*

## Latest Statistics



### LATEST STATISTICS

#### Northern Territory Summary Statistics ~ NT Keeps Cool ~ A Picture of a Nation ~ Broadband Internet Connections ~ Publication Release Dates

#### Northern Territory Summary Statistics

Catalogue Number	Selected Data	Units	Northern Territory	Australia
3101.0	Estimated Resident Population (Preliminary, Sept 2008)	'000	221.1	21,542.5
6202.0	Total Employed (Trend, Feb 2009)	'000	116.6	10,811.7
6202.0	Total Unemployed (Trend, Feb 2009)	'000	4.7	561.1
6202.0	Unemployment Rate (Trend, Feb 2009)	%	3.9	4.9
6202.0	Unemployment Rate (Trend, Jan 2009)	%	3.9	4.8
6202.0	Civilian population aged 15+ years (Original, Feb 2009)	'000	164.8	17,407.7
8731.0	Total Dwelling Units approved , % change from previous month (Trend, Jan 2009)	%	1.5	-4.3
8731.0	Total Dwelling Units approved, % change from previous month (Trend, Dec 2008)	%	0.5	-5.0
6401.0	Consumer Price Index (CPI) % change Dec Quarter 2007 to Dec Quarter 2008	%	3.7(a)	3.7(b)
6401.0	Consumer Price Index (CPI) % change Sep Quarter 2008 to Dec Quarter 2008	%	-0.4(a)	-0.3(b)

(a) Darwin.

(b) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

For further statistics about the NT see Regional Statistics Northern Territory, 2008 (cat. no. 1362.7).



#### NT Keeps Cool

With environmental concerns (and temperatures) on the rise it is interesting to see how Territorians use energy compared to the rest of Australia.

In 2008, 93% of households in the Northern Territory had air-conditioning, with more than a third

(35%) of Territory households using their air-conditioning for 6 months or more in a year. Comparatively, 66% of Australian households had air-conditioning with less than 5% using air-conditioning for 6 months or more in a year.

There were fewer Northern Territory households with heaters (14%) compared to Australian households (77%) in southern states - Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (more than 90%). Between 2005 and 2008, the duration of use of heaters decreased for Australia as a whole, with the '6 months or more' category falling from 13% of households in 2005 to 7% in 2008.

The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of households (44%) with two or more refrigerators in use, followed by Queensland (42%) and Western Australia (41%). In Australia 34% of dwellings had two or more refrigerators in use.

More than half of the households in the Northern Territory (54%) used solar energy to heat water in 2008, an increase from 2005 (42%). Solar energy was used by 7% of Australian households for heating water in 2008. This was a 61% increase from 2005 when 4% of households used solar energy for hot water systems. Households in all states and territories had a noticeable increase in the use of solar for water heating between 2005 and 2008.

In 2008, more than half of dwellings (58%) in Australia used fluorescent lights or other energy saving lights (59%) in at least one room. In the Northern Territory, fluorescent lights were used in 82% of dwellings and in Queensland, 72% of dwellings.

For more information on energy use for the Northern Territory (and Australia) see [Environmental Issues: Energy Use and Conservation, Mar 2008](#) (cat. no. 4602.0.55.001).



## **A Picture of a Nation: the Statistician's Report on the 2006 Census**

With the January 2009 release, by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), of **A Picture of a Nation** came a rich source of stories on Australian society and how it has changed over time. Organised into eight chapters: population; cultural diversity; living arrangements; community; education; work; economic resources; and housing, this publication draws on a range of data from the 2006 Census and historical censuses. It also provides an in-depth analysis of population Census data, complementing the extensive range of other Census products already available free from the ABS website.

The publication presents the following findings for the Northern Territory (NT):

- The average annual population growth between 1981 and 2006 for the NT was 2.2%, higher than the national average for the same period (1.3%).
- Regional patterns of labour force participation for men changed over the 20 year period with the Barkly region experiencing one of the largest declines in labour force participation for men: 60% in 2006 down from 79% in 1986. Most men living in the Barkly region work in the cattle farming industry, so this decline may be partly explained by a national decrease in the number of people employed in cattle farming during the 1996-2006 period.
- The NT had the third highest growth in the number of private dwellings over the past twenty years (60%), following Queensland (74%) and Western Australia (63%). These increases have been driven by high rates of population growth, although the NT has increased from a relatively low number of private dwellings in 1986.
- In 2006, the NT had the highest proportion of students attending government schools (74%),

while the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest (59%).

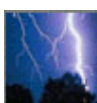
- Of all men and women living in the NT, 9% of men and 16% of women provided informal child care in 2006. In rural areas of the NT, these proportions were higher, 13% of men and 23% of women. In most other states and territories the proportion was between 6-7% for men and 11-13% for women.

For more stories about how the Northern Territory and Australia has changed over time view [A Picture of the Nation: the Statistician's Report on the 2006 Census, 2006](#) (cat. no. 2070.0). Hard copy editions of the publication are also available, please refer to the ABS website for further information.



## Broadband Internet Connections

According to [Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2007-08](#) (cat. no. 8146.0), 55% of Northern Territory households (excluding very remote areas) had a Broadband Internet connection at June 30 2008. This was above the national average of 52%. Broadband connections were present in 4.3 million Australian households. To create further perspective, the Australian Capital Territory had the highest proportion of households with Broadband Internet connection (68%) while Tasmania (39%) and South Australia (42%) recorded the lowest proportion of all households.



## Upcoming Releases

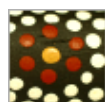
The following are selected ABS releases in April, May and June of relevance and interest to the Northern Territory. For a full list of releases please refer to the [Product Releases](#) section on the home page of the ABS website.

Release Date	Publication Title	Catalogue Number
<b>General</b>		
28 May	Northern Territory at a Glance 2009	1304.7
22 June	Education and Training Matters June 2009	4211.0
22 June	Environment and Energy News June 2009	4653.0
24 June	What's New in Regional Statistics June 2009	1386.0
<b>Economic</b>		
1 April	Retail Trade Australia February 2009	8501.0
1 April	Building Approvals Australia February 2009	8731.0
9 April	Labour Force Australia March 2009	6202.0
22 April	Consumer Price Index Australia March 2009 (Quarterly)	6401.0
5 May	Building Approvals Australia March 2009	8731.0
6 May	Retail Trade, Australia March 2009	8501.0
7 May	Labour Force Australia April 2009	6202.0
29 May	Australian Economic Indicators June 2009	1350.0
1 June	Retail Trade Australia April 2009	8501.0

2 June	Building Approvals Australia April 2009	8731.0
3 June	Australian National Accounts: National Income Expenditure and Product March 2009	5206.0
11 June	Labour Force Australia May 2009	6202.0
<b>Social</b>		
11 May	National Health Survey: Summary of Results: State Tables 2007-08	4362.0
28 May	Recorded Crime - Victims Australia 2008	4510.0
2 June	Statistical Framework for Family and Domestic Violence 2008	Advanced Subscription 4529.0
23 June	Australian Social Trends 2009	4102.0
<b>Demographic</b>		
23 April	Regional Population Growth Australia 2007-08	3218.0
25 May	Demography News May 2009	3106.0
4 June	Australian Demographic Statistics December 2008	3101.0
<b>Census</b>		
2 April	Census of Population and Housing: Australia's Children and Youth 2006	Advanced Subscription 2059.0.55.001

To be notified of a particular publication release subscribe to our [Email Notification Service](#) and choose the type's of publications you are interested.

## North Australia Unit Update



### NORTH AUSTRALIA UNIT UPDATE

#### INTRODUCING THE NORTHERN AUSTRALIA UNIT (NAU)

In the later half of 2008, the ABS established the Northern Australia Unit (NAU) to position the ABS to better respond to recent policy and service delivery approaches in the diverse region of Northern Australia. The NAU brings together knowledge and experience in enumeration practices of both the Census and ABS Household surveys, particularly in remote areas and discrete Indigenous communities. Its objective is to share resources and reduce duplication and to work toward building partnerships with governments, other ABS offices, and community organisations that have an interest in the region.

Based in the ABS NT Office, the NAU comprises a number of responsibilities, including Demography, Consumer Price Index and the NT Census, and looks at a range of issues including the Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy, the Indigenous Enumeration Strategy and the Census Enumeration Strategy.

Northern Australia spans more than 3 million square kilometres and represents numerous challenges and opportunities; in areas such as the environment, water and natural resources, art, culture, heritage and tourism, opportunities arising from the proximity to Asia and the Pacific, and a range of Indigenous issues.

Understanding and servicing this region effectively has proved logistically-challenging, not just for the ABS but for other Federal service providers. In July 2008, the new Australian Government

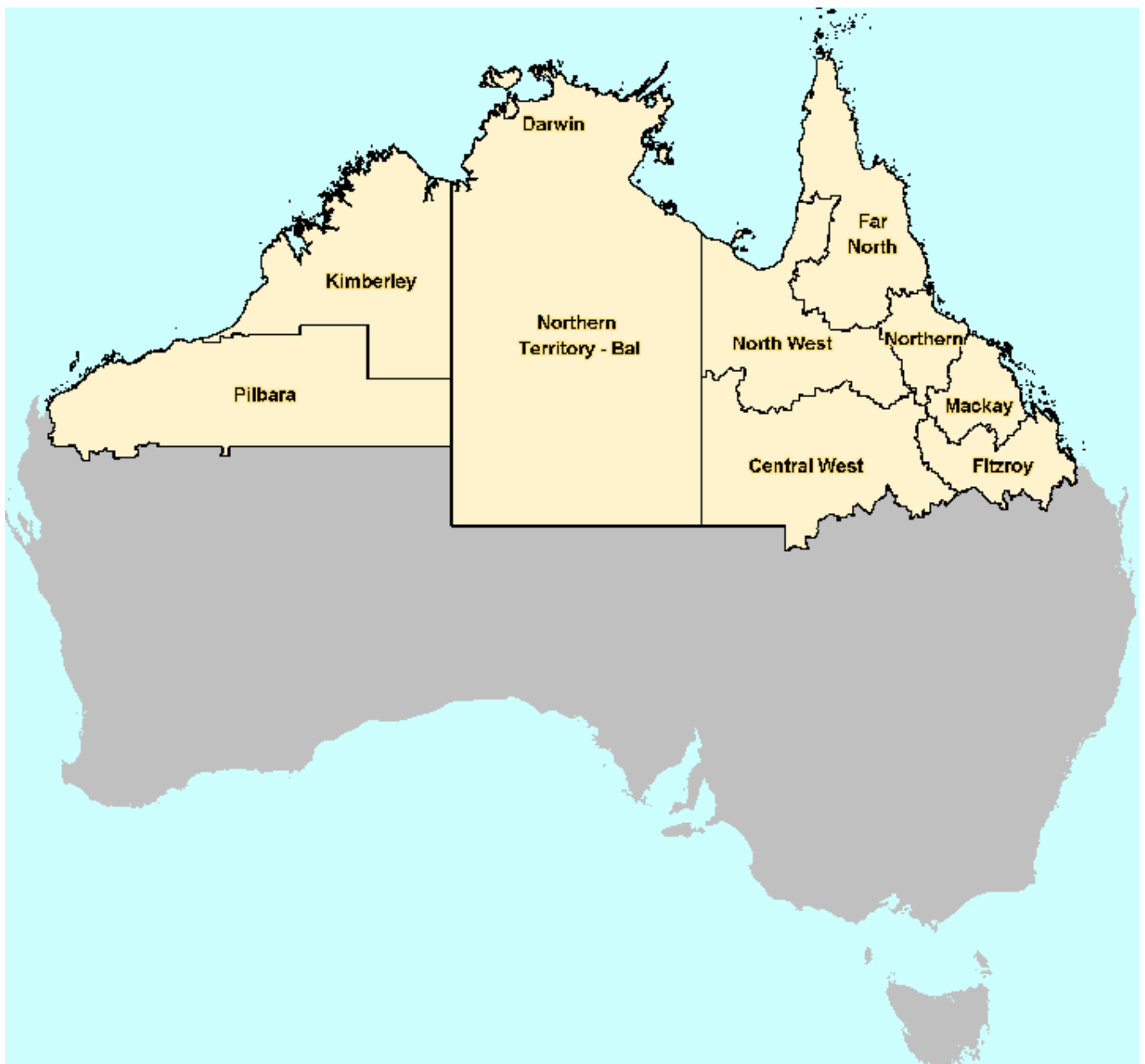


established an Office of Northern Australia (ONA), operating within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. The ONA's purpose is to facilitate the provision of high-level policy advice on a range of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental issues affecting major projects and development in Northern Australia.

The ONA defines Northern Australia as being everything above the Tropic of Capricorn and represents a growing trend by many agencies to implement organisational structures and administrative arrangements that are not bound by state borders.

For logistical and operational reasons, the NAU defines Northern Australia more broadly as “everything above the Tropic of Capricorn but including the whole of the Northern Territory”. The ABS definition comprises the following Statistical Divisions: Pilbara; Kimberley; Darwin; NT - Balance; Far North (Qld); Northern (Qld); North West (Qld); Central West (Qld); Mackay; and Fitzroy.

### **Northern Australia Map**





The Northern Australia region has no major cities as defined under the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), and consists of predominately outer-regional and remote or very remote areas. The region has a large Indigenous population, many of whom live outside major urban centres.

The ABS NAU hopes to develop and maintain useful working relationships with a range of internal and external stakeholders to help inform policy development, implementation and assessment in Northern Australia.

## Outposting Update



### OUTPOSTING UPDATE

#### Outposting to Charles Darwin University ~ Future Outpostings

##### **Outposting to Charles Darwin University**

A six month outposting has recently been completed at the School for Social Policy and Research (SSPR) at Charles Darwin University (CDU). Megan Brown from the ABS worked closely with the Population Studies Group examining population mobility in the Northern Territory (NT).

The outposting was established to undertake statistical analysis and to assist with the preparation of research papers and reports. As well as supporting SSPR researchers in the use and understanding of ABS data, the outposting provided an opportunity to enhance and build new relationships between both agencies.

The joint project looked at 30 years of mobility (five Census periods) in the NT and aimed to identify trends over time of mobility (interstate and intrastate), for three specific locations in the NT: Darwin-Palmerston, Top End, and Southern NT. Five groups of Census variables were analysed: Age and Sex; Indigenous Status; Relationships in Households; Ancestry and Language Spoken at Home; and Occupation. The data were analysed using both one and five year ago 'Place of Usual Residence'.

The major piece of work resulting from this project is a series of research briefs about the mobility of Territorians. Research briefs can be found in the following link: [http://www.cdu.edu.au/sspr/research\\_briefs.htm](http://www.cdu.edu.au/sspr/research_briefs.htm).

##### **Future Outpostings**

The outposting at CDU is not the first time the ABS has assisted agencies in the Northern Territory. Other agencies to benefit from ABS outpostings in the past include NT Treasury, Parks and Wildlife, the former Department of Employment, Education and Training, and the NT Police.

A rise in the popularity of ABS outpostings has resulted from the increased recognition of the benefits that statistics can have when people are seeking to formulate evidence based policies and would like the benefit of accessing in-house knowledge of ABS data and data management practices.

If you are considering the use of an ABS outposted officer or would like further information about

ABS outposts, please contact Debbie Goodwin on (08) 89432105.

## Events and Training



### EVENTS AND TRAINING

#### **Free Seminar - Revised Standards in Economic Statistics ~ NatStats08 Conference ~ Training Offered by the ABS**

##### **Seminar - Revised Standards in ABS Economic Statistics and their Impact on Data**

Date: 9.30am 8 April 2009 Location: Level 7, 81 Smith Street , Darwin.

In September quarter 2009, ABS economic statistics will undergo the largest single change in over a decade. The ABS will be aligning all of our sub-annual collections and National Accounts with recently updated international standards. There will be changes to many of the concepts used in ABS publications, the structure of industry and the coverage of our collections.

This seminar will cover:

- Why the ABS is adopting these new standards;
- The new ANZSIC classification - changes and overview of its impact;
- Impacts caused by implementing the international System of National Accounts, 2008;
- Changes caused by our new Institutional Sector Classification and impacts of these; and
- Release schedules for publication on the new basis.

This seminar will be of interest to users of economic statistics such as labour force, tourism, construction, industry and prices; and to users who regularly access ABS publications.

Please call the ABS NT Office on 08 8943 2100 if you wish to attend this information session.

If you are unable to attend and would like more information please see [Information Paper: Introduction of revised international standards in ABS economic statistics in 2009, 2007 \(cat. no. 5310.0.55.001\).](#)



#### **NatStats08 Conference**

Around 460 delegates from across Australia attended the NatStats08 conference in Melbourne on 19 - 21 November, 2008. With representation from international and national speakers and participants from the government, business, community and the university sectors, the event proved to be a great success, culminating in the preparation of a statistical declaration to guide the development of a national statistics strategy for Australia in the 21st century.

Speaker presentations are available on the [National Statistical Service website](#).



## Training Offered by the ABS

The following training is currently scheduled for the NT in the coming months. Details of these courses can be viewed via the links:

Dates	Courses	Days
Darwin		
21 April	Introduction to Labour Statistics	1 day
14 May	Valuing Australia's Environment	1 day
22 May	Understanding Demographic Data	1 day
25-26 May	Turning Data Into Information	2 days
8-9 September	Principles of Questionnaire Design	2 days
Alice Springs		
12 May	Valuing Australia's Environment	1 day
25 May	Understanding Demographic Data	1 day
28-29 May	Turning Data Into Information	2 days

Visit the ABS Training Page for [Registrations and Contacts](#).

ABS Website training (free) is available regularly and on an as-needs basis.

For information about upcoming training or to discuss your specific training needs please contact the ABS Northern Territory Office on 08 8943 2100.

## Contacts



### CONTACTS

#### **Call for Contributions and Feedback ~ ABS Northern Territory Office ~ ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS)**

##### **Call for Contributions and Feedback**

Inform NT is a quarterly newsletter produced by the ABS NT Office designed to promote statistical developments relevant to the NT. If there is something you would like to see included in future issues or if you know of something that would be of interest to Inform NT readers please let us know.

Likewise, we would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Contributions and feedback can be directed to the Client and Statistical Services Branch of the

ABS NT Office, phone 08 8943 2100.

### **ABS Northern Territory Office**

Telephone: 08 8943 2100

Fax: 08 8941 1218

Email: [nt.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:nt.statistics@abs.gov.au)

### **ABS National Information and Referral Service (NIRS):**

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Fax: 1300 135 211

Email: [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

## **About this Release**

Inform NT is a newsletter produced by the Northern Territory office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.

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